

23.

Abergele Urban District Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1958

of the



## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM MCKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

which includes the

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



## HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1958/59

Councillor H. J. MANIFOLD (Chairman).

Councillor W. C. WILLIAMS (Vice-Chairman).

### Councillors :

F. W. Bulkeley (Resigned September, 1958).	F. J. S. Leuty.
T. E. M. Cowden.	C. R. Little.
W. D. Davies.	Henry Parry.
J. W. I. Guest (Elected August, 1958).	Hywel Parry.
D. E. Jones.	John Parry.
John Jones (Resigned July, 1958).	W. Shaw (Elected October, 1958).
P. Idwal Jones.	J. Ellis Williams.
R. H. Jones (Died June, 1958).	R. E. Williams.
	S. Wilmott.
	J. C. Winkup.
	J. N. Wright (Elected August, 1958).

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## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1958-59

### Medical Officer of Health :

Wm McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

### Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
PENTRE MAWR,  
ABERGELE.

11th August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report for the year 1958. This follows the requirements of the Minister of Health.

A Health Report always opens with a list of statistics. These are the yard measures commonly used to assess the efficiency of our defences against disease. I do not accept this standard ; but for what it is worth, Abergale figures are satisfactory. There was one infant death—giving an Infant Mortality rate of 11.9 per 1,000 births. The death rate was low. Infectious Diseases caused no deaths and except for a limited epidemic of measles, had little incidence. But if we measure the health of the district by the amount of medicine consumed or the number of persons who required special transport to hospital, then we must conclude that there is much sickness—probably mental.

There has not been any serious attack on the housing problem. The Council, as you know, is very concerned about this. Not only is it difficult to build houses, it is apparently impossible to build them at a cost which would permit a moderate rent being charged. This has not been helped by the Government's "closed shop" policy. No grant will be given for any house not planned by a registered Architect.

Camping continued to cause anxiety. I have strong opinions regarding the need for much more rigid control of Camping Sites.

I feel that powers to take prompt and exemplary penal action against those who do not comply with bye-laws are required. It is unfortunate that there is a dual control of this problem—the Council deal strictly with health matters and their powers are very limited ; the County Planning Authority has wide powers to deal with the amenity questions and there is not adequate co-operation.

The laying of the sewer in the Kinmel Bay/Towyn area is progressing and many houses and camps have already been connected to it. The improvement is already marked.

There has been considerable worry concerning the water supply for the Llanddulas area. The storage there is inadequate although the water is of good quality.

I am glad to record that the people of Abergel have accepted immunisation against poliomyelitis whole-heartedly. As we probably receive over a quarter of a million visitors each summer, it is most desirable that all should be protected. An epidemic could be fatal to the prosperity of the district. Most of the children are also protected against diphtheria, whooping cough and smallpox—but steady effort must be maintained to secure safety.

This report has been prepared jointly with Mr. Frank Evans, the Public Health Inspector, whose pleasant and willing co-operation I have always enjoyed.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. McKENDRICK,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Area of District (acres) ... ... ... ...	7965
Population—Registrar-General's Estimate (mid 1957) ...	7350
Census Population (1951) ... ... ... ...	7539
Rateable Value ... ... ... ...	£109,131
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ... ... ...	£445

### LIVE BIRTHS :

	Male	Female	Total
Total ... ... ... ...	47	37	84
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	46	36	82
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	1	1	2

### STILL-BIRTHS :

Total ... ... ... ...	1	2	3
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	1	2	3
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	—	—	—

### INFANT DEATHS :

Total ... ... ... ...	1	—	—
Legitimate (under 4 weeks) ... ... ...	1	—	—

DEATHS ... ... ... ...	48	56	104
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### RATES :

#### Birth Rate per 1,000 population—

(a) Crude ... ... ... ...	11.4
(b) Corrected ... ... ... ...	12.5

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population ... ... ...	0.4
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Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 births ... ... ...	11.9
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#### Death rate per 1,000 population—

(a) Crude ... ... ... ...	14.1
(b) Corrected ... ... ... ...	11.4

Comparability figure for births ... ... ... ...	1.10
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Comparability figure for deaths ... ... ... ...	0.81
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The following table shows the vital statistics for the past eight years :

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Population ...	7327	7182	7099	7160	7190	7230	7270	7350
Births ... ... ...	114	116	97	104	102	83	89	84
Birth Rate ...	15.7	16.5	15.4	15.5	15.6	12.6	13.3	12.5
Still Births ...	2	5	2	—	1	3	2	3
Still Birth Rate	0.27	0.69	0.28	—	0.14	0.14	0.27	0.4
Infant Deaths ..	3	2	3	2	4	4	2	1
Infant Mortality Rate ... ... ...	26.2	17	29	20.6	39	48	22.4	11.9
Deaths ... ... ...	118	99	102	104	105	137	128	104
Death Rate ...	12.7	11.2	11.9	10.8	10.9	15.2	14.2	11.4

From these figures it would appear that the population of the area is increasing. This is in spite of the fact that the number of deaths exceeded births by 20. It will, of course, be appreciated that these statistics concern permanent residents only. Abergele has to provide for a very large number of temporary residents—and this number is increasing.

The ages at which death occurred were :

Years	Male	Female	Total
0— 1 ... ... ...	1	0	1
1— 4 ... ... ...	0	0	0
5— 9 ... ... ...	0	1	1
10—14 ... ... ...	0	0	0
15—24 ... ... ...	0	1	1
25—34 ... ... ...	0	0	0
35—44 ... ... ...	0	0	0
45—54 ... ... ...	0	5	5
55—64 ... ... ...	10	7	17
Over 65 ... ... ...	33	41	74
Totals ... ... ...	44	55	99

There were 9 deaths registered in Abergele which we, locally, regard as non-permanent residents. As the Registrar-General gives us credit for 104 deaths, it would seem that he did not transfer five of them to other areas. Over 74% of the deaths concerned persons over 65 years of age. 3% were under 45 years.

The infant death was due to damage done during the process of birth.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis . . . . .	1	1	2
Cancer—			
Stomach . . . . .	1	—	1
Lung . . . . .	2	—	2
Breast . . . . .	—	1	1
Other . . . . .	3	5	8
Diabetes . . . . .	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system . .	5	7	12
Coronary disease . . . . .	13	5	18
Hypertension . . . . .	—	2	2
Other heart disease . . . . .	5	13	18
Other circulatory disease . . . . .	4	1	5
Pneumonia . . . . .	—	4	4
Bronchitis . . . . .	8	3	11
Other respiratory disease . . . . .	—	1	1
Prostatic disease . . . . .	3	—	3
Ill-defined diseases . . . . .	1	10	11
Motor vehicle accidents . . . . .	1	1	2
Other accidents . . . . .	1	1	2
Total . . . . .	48	56	104

The causes of death do not vary greatly from those of former years. As usual, coronary disease heads the list with heart disease.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### Laboratory Provisions

#### 1. BACTERIOLOGICAL :

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway continues to serve this area. Samples of milk, ice cream, drinking water, sea water, foods, etc., have been submitted for examination and report. I have to express my gratitude to Dr. Kingsley Smith and his staff for the generous and prompt help given on all occasions.

The following samples were subject to report :—

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
							<hr/>	
							Total	125
							<hr/>	

In 1957 there were 142 samples sent.

Family doctors may submit nose and throat swabs, blood, faeces, urine, cerebro-spinal fluid, etc., from patients.

#### 2. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL :

Doctors may send to the Pathological Laboratories at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, any specimens that will help in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

#### 3. WATER :

Water is tested for bacterial purity at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. Specimens are taken with special precautions into sterile bottles by the Public Health Inspector and taken quickly to Conway. The tests show the presence or absence of living organisms. Thus they are of immediate value and they tell that the water from a special pipe at a special time is, or is not, safe. Of course, if water is pure from a terminal stand pipe it must be satisfactory all along the course but if unsatisfactory, contamination may occur at the source or at a faulty pipe or valve on the main and further search must be made. As will be seen, 45 samples were sent.

Water may be tested chemically—this is an elaborate and costly test. It reveals the state of the gathering fround. Tests are made at the Assay Office, Chester.

Chlorine is added to the water at the reservoir. The Surveyor, or one of his staff, test the water daily to find if the chlorine added is excessive.

#### 4. MILK AND OTHER FOODS :

The Public Health Inspector to the County Council has the duty of supervising milk pasteurisation, etc., and of taking samples. In 1957 he took 432 samples. His duty, however, finished at the works. We are interested in the condition of the milk when it reaches the home. Therefore, the Public Health Inspector took 50 samples of milk in 1958 at various points of delivery.

The County Foods and Drugs Inspector is responsible for seeing that all foods are free from adulteration and are in fact what they purport to be. I am glad to record that his staff at Colwyn Bay maintain a close and very happy co-operation. He has given me the following report concerning samples taken in Abergel.

“ Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act in ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT during the year ended 31st December, 1958 ” :

Article	No. taken	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-Standard
Milk	25	23	2
Butter	1	1	—
Flour	1	1	—
Tinned Peas	1	1	—
Tinned Fish	1	1	—
Sausages	1	—	1
Jam	1	1	—
Ice Cream	1	1	—
Rum	1	1	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>

As will be observed from the Table of the thirty-three samples submitted to the Public Analyst, adverse reports were received in respect of three of them. Two of these were samples of bottled milk, and in each there was a fat deficiency which, on investigation, proved to be due to failure to mix the milk properly before bottling. The deficiency in each case was slight and the vendors were visited by me and cautioned. Samples taken from these vendors subsequent to my visit were found to be up to the standard.

The sample of sausage shown in the Table as “ Not Genuine ” was a case of an infringement of the Regulations requiring display of a notice in the shop when sausages on sale contain preservatives. The butcher concerned was visited and cautioned, and the matter was immediately rectified.

(Signed) THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,

Wrexham.

29th April, 1959.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The County Council is responsible for the transport to and from Hospital of persons who, for medical reasons, are unable to travel in ordinary vehicles. Transport is only provided on the receipt of request from a doctor, except in the case of accidents. The administration of the service for Abergele has been deputed to me and is located in my office at Colwyn Bay. There are some difficulties that sometimes cause confusion and delay, e.g.:

- (i) Emergency telephone calls go to Rhyl and thence to the Flintshire Ambulance Control—the comfortable organisation of the Telephone Service is more important than the needs of the people.
- (ii) Several doctors resident in Rhyl attend patients in the Towyn/Kinmel Bay area and tend to send messages to the Rhyl Ambulance. This leads to the relaying of messages and the consequent risk of mistakes.

There is one Ambulance with a paid driver for day work and a Voluntary Corps of men for night and week-end work.

The work done by the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps deserves the highest praise, not only for the service given, but for the kindly manner in which patients are dealt with.

## NURSING IN THE HOME :

There are two nurses resident in the area. They are provided for the nursing of sick persons by the County Council. They work on the instructions of the family doctor.

“ Home Helps ” are provided to help in the running of homes where the housekeeper is ill or otherwise incapacitated. Last year an average of thirty homes were so served.

## CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :

### 1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele—Thursday, at 2 p.m.  
Llanddulas, Beulah Schoolroom—alternate Mondays, at 2 p.m.

### 2. Orthopaedic :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road—alternate Thursdays, at 11 a.m.

### 3. Ophthalmic :

As required. Appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Colwyn Bay Clinic.

## 4. Dental :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Abergele.

## 5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic)—Fridays, 9 a.m. until noon, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Rhyl (refill clinic)—Fridays, at 2 p.m., at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Colwyn Bay—at the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road—1st and 3rd Thursdays, at 2 p.m.

## DAY NURSERIES :

There are no day nurseries in the area.

## TUBERCULOSIS :

It has not been necessary to take action to secure the isolation of any tuberculous person engaged in the milk trade or to enforce any person to go into the Chest Hospital.

The following table shows the incidence and age distribution of cases notified to me during the year :

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—64	...	...	5	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	2	1	1	—	1	—
Total	...	...	10	1	1	—	1	1

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and end of the year was :

	Register 1/1/58	On Register 31/12/58	
Pulmonary—		Pulmonary—	
Males	35	Males	39
Females	21	Females	20
Non-Pulmonary—		Non-Pulmonary—	
Males	5	Males	5
Females	2	Females	1
Total	63	Total	65

The number of cases notified each year does not diminish. Indeed, the incidence of Tuberculosis does not appear to be falling. On the other hand, the number of deaths is smaller than in previous years and the number taken off the register as "cured" increases each year.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases notified to me during 1958 :

Cases Notified	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.
Lobar Pneumonia . . . . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	8	—	—	—	—	2	4	—
Non-Pulmonary T.B. . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	14	—	5	9	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough . . . . .	17	3	4	9	—	1	—	—
Primary Pneumonia . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas . . . . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles . . . . .	48	2	18	27	1	—	—	—
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

### IMMUNISATION :

81 persons received primary vaccination against smallpox—of these 47 were less than one year old. 57 children were inoculated against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and 7 received "booster doses." 795 persons were given protection against poliomyelitis.

These figures, taken as a whole, are very pleasing. Each year the number vaccinated almost equals the number born. True, some are not protected until later in life but the average immunity of the area is relatively high. The interest in Poliomyelitis did not develop until very late in the year so that the number shown does not bear any real relationship to the number now protected.

### WATER :

Abergele receives water from two main sources—plus an auxiliary supply from Colwyn Bay when necessary.

The Eastern and Central part of the area receives water from the Rhyl Council supply. I am pleased to acknowledge the following statement received from Mr. J. Round, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Engineer and Manager to the Rhyl U.D.C. Water Undertaking :

" The Rhyl Water Undertaking's direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llannefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—Plas Uchaf storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods, by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

The annual rainfall for 1958 on the Llannefydd gathering ground was 39.44 inches compared with an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The rainfall exceeded the average by 66% during the period May to September.

#### Consumption of Water in Abergale (estimated during 1958)

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption during month
January ... ... ...	10,505,000	339,000 gallons
February ... ... ...	9,288,000	332,000 ,,
March ... ... ...	10,513,000	339,000 ,,
April ... ... ...	10,457,000	349,000 ,,
May ... ... ...	11,937,000	385,000 ,,
June ... ... ...	12,948,000	432,000 ,,
July ... ... ...	14,882,000	480,000 ,,
August ... ... ...	15,502,000	500,000 ,,
September ... ... ...	12,407,000	414,000 ,,
October ... ... ...	11,335,000	366,000 ,,
November ... ... ...	10,266,000	342,000 ,,
December ... ... ...	10,296,000	332,000 ,,

#### Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water

Number sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway ... ... ...	100
Number returned as Class 1 (Satisfactory) ... ... ... ...	99

#### Chemical Analysis

The following chemical analysis was made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London :

#### Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance : Very faint opalescence with a very slight deposit.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It shows only a trace of colour and is of satisfactory organic quality. From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.'

3rd December, 1958.

I also have the following report from Mr. G. V. Gethin, Engineer and Surveyor to the Abergele Council :

During the past year the supply of water from the gathering grounds to Glyn Lws Water was well maintained owing to the abnormally wet Summer. No difficulty in maintaining the level of the reservoir was experienced and for once a Summer passed without the frequent complaints usually received as to colour and quality of water. Regular samples were taken of the water and these revealed that the quality has been kept at a highly satisfactory level.

During the Winter months the opportunity was taken to lay a new extension to the main in Beach Road, Llanddulas, which now gives a much improved supply to two camps and a number of private houses."

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958**

**TABLE I**  
**General Statistics**

No. of complaints received and attended to .....	63
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances .....	184
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances .....	89
No. of nuisances abated .....	45
No. of nuisances not abated, but work in hand .....	11
No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	47
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	2
No. of Visits re Moveable Dwellings and Camp Sites .....	251
No. of inquiries re Infectious Diseases .....	15
No. of visits to Slaughterhouse .....	417
No. of visits to premises where food is prepared and sold .....	38
No. of visits to Ice Cream Shops .....	56
No. of samples taken of Ice Cream .....	48
No. of visits re Milk Control .....	49
No. of samples taken of Milk Supply .....	29
No. of visits re Water Supply .....	66
No. of Water Samples taken .....	45
No. of visits re Rodent Control .....	16
No. of Inspections of Factories .....	12
No. of Miscellaneous Visits .....	142
No. of Interviews .....	209
No. of visits re Refuse and Salvage .....	84
No. of visits re Shops Act .....	23

**TABLE II**  
**Sanitary Defects**

No. of defective or choked drains .....	18
No. of defective W.C. accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	8
No. of defects in water supply fittings .....	1
No. of defective pails or absence of pails .....	Nil
No. of dilapidated refuse bins or absence of refuse bins .....	18
No. of defective roofs or chimney stacks .....	7
No. of defective rainwater fittings .....	5
No. of damp conditions of houses .....	6
No. of miscellaneous nuisances .....	12

## TABLE III

## Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of dwellings during the year :		
(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	44	
(b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	6	
(c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	38	
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :		
Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action ...	27	
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :		
Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices under Public Health Act, 1936, were served ...	1	
4. Demolition as a result of informal action :		
Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the Owners ...	Nil	
5. Number of premises demolished as a result of formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	
6. Number of houses closed as a result of formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ...	1	
7. Number of houses made fit as a result of formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ...	1	
8. Number of houses closed as a result of informal action	Nil	
9. Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957 (Form J) ...	3	
10. Number of houses in respect of which improvement grants were made under the Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and 1957 ...	8	

## HOUSING

The subject of housing is one which commands the constant consideration of the Council and its officials. The problem is to secure the provision of suitable and adequate accommodation for each family or unit. It is a simple statement to make that the solution is to provide an adequate number of new houses or bungalows to accommodate those people living in unfit houses which cannot be made fit, and to repair and improve those houses capable of being brought up to modern standards at a reasonable cost. The achievement of this solution is, of course a task affected by a wide variety of factors requiring the highest possible degree of co-operation between the Council, the owners, and the tenants. Generally speaking, the legal powers are adequate, but the varied practicable and human problems attaching to the subject render difficult the implementation of these legal powers, and the attainment of those housing conditions considered essential for the health and well-being of the community.

The preceding Table 3—Housing Statistics—requires examination and explanation. The table shows that in most cases informal action has been successful in obtaining repairs—generally of a minor nature. Statutory notices were issued in respect of three houses. In one of these cases the house was converted into two flats with the aid of an improvement grant. In a second case, major repairs and modernisation were carried out by the owner in order to avoid demolition which would have otherwise been required by the Council. The third case related to a house, which was one of a group of unfit houses scheduled by the Council for demolition by way of Clearance Order procedure, and in this case a Closing Order was made.

The table also shows that in three cases the Council, on the request of the tenants, issued "Form J" notices under the Rent Act, 1957. This is one step in the rather involved process of securing the good state of repair of houses subject to rent increases. The action has to be initiated by the tenant, both tenant and landlord have rights of appeal to the County Court and either party may involve the Council in such proceedings. This Certificate of Dis-

repair procedure is essentially a landlord and tenant dual ; it can be most effective, but also most cumbersome.

Finally, Table III states that in eight cases improvement grants were made. These grants totalled £3,167 and involved works costing about £7,500. The Government re-imburses the Council to the extent of seventy-five per cent of the sums granted. In six of these cases, houses were modernised. The seventh case related to the conversion of a three-storey houses into three flats and the eighth case was the conversion of a house into two flats. The total result was, therefore, that eleven units of accommodation, all with modern amenities, were obtained at an average direct cost to the ratepayers of about £70 each. The resulting modernised properties become liable to new rating assessments, and the comparatively small direct costs are thus equalised during the course of a few years. In this way, houses which are sound in construction, but lacking in modern amenities, and large houses which are unsuited to present-day requirements are brought into full use. This aspect of housing activities does in fact offer a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, imposed a duty on local authorities to submit to the Ministry proposals to deal with unfit houses, especially those in respect of which it was proposed to make Clearance Orders. A list was prepared, submitted, and approved, and this list contained details of one hundred and ten houses to be dealt with by this method. It was anticipated that seventy houses could be dealt with in the first five years. This degree of progress has not been achieved, chiefly on account of the absence of building of new houses. It is, therefore, pleasing to record that the actual constructional work on forty-seven houses on the Maes Canol estate commenced during the closing months of 1958. These houses are, however, not specifically for accommodating families from unfit houses, but are to be used to meet the needs of those who have made application for the tenancy of a council house. Concern is felt as to the suitability of the houses now being erected to meet the needs of the families to be displaced from unfit houses. Many such families are small in size, who do not require three-bedroomed houses, and who would find the required rent a source

of financial embarrassment. It would seem to be advisable to consider carefully the type of house required before any more new houses are built. Generally speaking, "speculative builders" are building smaller houses and bungalows than the Council has planned.

The lack of variety in council house accommodation is, I feel, becoming an increasing embarrassment to the Housing Selection Sub-Committees, as many deserving applicants do not need or desire the now almost standard three-bedroomed council house.

The conditions under which families occupy rooms in houses which are sub-let is often the cause of concern. Housing legislation gives useful, but somewhat limited powers, to deal with such cases, a few of which have received attention.

A co-ordinated and comprehensive housing policy and programme would prove beneficial both to the Council and to the residents of the area.

### **CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES**

The issue, during the year 1958, of licences authorising the use of six new sites for caravans had the effect of bringing the total number of licensed sites to fifty-nine, and an estimated total number of about seven thousand caravans and chalets. A seventh new licence was issued in respect of an existing site where there had been a change of occupier and in this case a small reduction was secured in the number of caravans on the site.

Our camping sites cover a total area exceeding two hundred acres, situated near to the beach. They are used almost exclusively to accommodate caravans and chalets used for holiday purposes only, and we have no real residential caravan problem. The absence of a residential caravan problem in our area may be rightly attributed to the attitude of the site proprietors, as the public health legislation on the subject is, to say the least, most unhelpful.

It is twenty-three years since the first public health powers were enacted to deal with what were described in the Act of 1936 as

moveable dwellings. During those twenty-three years, the modern caravan has appeared—and has multiplied exceedingly. The Public Health Act of 1936 contained powers which were no doubt adequate to deal with the moveable dwelling problem of 1936. The situation in those twenty-three years has been transformed, but in spite of insistent demands no new public health legislation has been enacted.

Since 1949, no fewer than five Acts have appeared affecting the making of an improvement grant to modernise a house, and during the same period, numerous Acts, Regulations and Orders have appeared to give control over slaughterhouses. It is difficult to understand why our legislators should be so shy when the subject is caravans. Perhaps the Ministerial investigation now proceeding is the first official step towards new legislation.

To deny that the public health legislation is quite out of date to deal with the present-day caravan situation merely reveals an ignorance of the problem. The "Model" bye-laws regarding tents, vans and sheds are early Victorian in their language.

Provided that an adequate supply of wholesome water is available, and the occupier is prepared to incur the necessary expenditure in dealing with waste matters in such a way as not to create a nuisance, it is not possible, under the Public Health Act, to prevent the establishment of a camping site.

It has been my experience that the application of powers under the Planning Acts is so slow and cumbersome that a long spell of unauthorised camping use may be enjoyed. There are numerous such cases in our area, and enforcement proceedings in two cases were heard in the local court. One of these cases became the subject of a hearing at Quarter Sessions, resulting in a decision in favour of the Planning Authority and the discontinuance of the unauthorised use.

Since 1950 it has been the practice when issuing new site licences under the Public Health Act to impose a condition limiting the density of caravans to twenty per acre. This has resulted in a

good standard, as crowding gives rise to problems, especially with regard to disposal of waste matters. This limitation is in fact the pre-eminent factor in the maintenance of hygienic environmental conditions. It was necessary to take proceedings against one camping site proprietor for contravening this condition. Subsequently, thirty-two sites were surveyed and in six cases only there was an excess number of caravans. This survey involved a count of two thousand six hundred and ten caravans. In all six cases the excess caravans were removed by the proprietors on the request of the Council.

To those who are loud in their protestations regarding the camping development in our area, I would observe that the Council can act only in accordance with the legal provisions available to deal with the subject. Over the past few years there has been an improvement in the standards obtaining on the licensed camping sites, and this improvement will continue. Sewerage facilities are becoming available to an increasing number of sites. Refuse collection from the sites is a difficult problem due to the quantity which is involved.

### **SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The completion of contracts numbered 1 and 2 is now an accomplished fact. These two contracts included the construction of the sea outfall, the main pumping station and storage tanks, the crossing underneath the railway, and the laying of the sewers in that portion of Kinmel Bay lying to the north of the main railway line. Most of the houses and bungalows in that area have now been connected to the sewer and some connections to camping sites are in use. Contract No. 3, which is now being carried out, relates to the Towyn area. At the time of writing this report, the laying of the sewers in the Towyn area has been almost completed and about seventy-five per cent of the house connections have been made. The connections to the camping sites will no doubt proceed at the end of the holiday period. There is a small number of dwellings where chemical closets are still in use and steps to secure their speedy conversion to water closets will, no doubt, be soon occupying the consideration of the Council.

Aproval in principle has been received to the construction of a new tidal storage tank and pumping station at Pensarn. This will enable the extension of the sewer from Belgrano in an easterly direction. It is considered essential that the two schemes—the Towyn and Kinmel Bay scheme and the Belgrano extension scheme—should together provide sewerage facilities for the whole of the area which is used for camping purposes, and which lies to the north of the coast road from Pensarn to Rhyl.

A new length of sewer has been laid in Dundonald Avenue, a task which was found to be necessary in order to relieve the surcharge due to storm water.

These works, both completed and contemplated, are of course imposing a heavy burden on the rates, but we may anticipate more development and a higher rate yield.

Recently there has been a fair amount of development in the Llanddulas area, resulting in a degree of overloading of the sewage plant. It is advised that this matter should receive the Council's consideration.

By comparison, the remaining sewerage problems of the area are of a more minor nature. The contour of the land and the rocky nature of the subsoil present a difficult problem in Rhydyfoel, and the unsatisfactory conditions in the village of St. George have of necessity to be tolerated for a further period. In addition, useful work remains to be done in the Llanfair Road district.

### RODENT CONTROL

The whole-time services of a trained rodent operator are at the present time shared by the Abergele Council, the Aled Council and the St. Asaph Council. Each Authority contributes an amount towards the cost of his services which is based on the amount of time he is employed in the area.

Rodent Control Advisory Committee meetings are held periodically in various centres in the County, these meetings being attended by Officers and Members of the local authorities and Ministry representatives.

The Ministry have now discontinued their servicing organisation which functioned on agricultural premises. I consider that locally, at least, this is unfortunate, as our operator is rather fully engaged on destruction operations and has less time to devote to inspection duties.

Usually the occupiers of premises where infestations are found are urgent in their requests for the services of our operator. It frequently happens, however, that difficulty is experienced by the Council's Finance Department in collecting the money charged for the work he does. The operator continues to discharge his duties satisfactorily.

### **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

There are very few industrial undertakings in our area which could be the cause of atmospheric pollution and no complaint of nuisance has been received regarding such premises.

Complaints have been received of nuisance of smoke and smell arising from the burning of refuse on a few of the camping sites. Such practice is obviously undesirable and consideration is being given to the problem.

### **FACTORIES**

An examination of the statutory return under the Factories Acts shows that there are nine power, and twenty-one non-power, factories in the area. No complaints were received from employees, but in two cases attention was drawn by the Factory Inspector to the necessity to amend the Certificates as to means of escape in case of fire.

### **SHOPS ACT ADMINISTRATION**

Orders made under Section 57 of the Shops Act, 1950, permitted the retail trading during the summer season of articles referred to in the seventh schedule to the Act. The Order did not permit this trading in the Abergele town area as an insufficient number of the traders affected were in favour.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1958 of the Urban District of Abergavenny in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

#### Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Written Inspections notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)	M/c line No. (6)	Number of line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ... ... ... ...	1	9	5	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ... ... ... ...	2	21	7	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ... ... ... ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
<b>Total</b> ... ... ... ... ...	30	12	—	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which M/c line No. cases in which prosecutions were instituted		(8)
	M/c line No.	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	(7)	
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ... ... ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ... ... ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ... ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ... ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—							
(a) Insufficient ... ... ... ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ... ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ... ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ... ...	12	2	2	—	—	—	12
Total ... ... ... ...	60	2	2	—	—	—	60

**Part VIII of the Act. Outwork.**

(Sections 110 and 111)

No person was on the Register of Outworkers.

## FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, became law and, together with the Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations, it will in course of time bring about considerable changes in the facilities required and the methods used in slaughtering. The Divisional Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have equal powers of entry and enforcement with the officers of local authorities.

In our area, slaughtering is carried on at one establishment only and this in itself is a favourable factor in securing the inspection of all carcases. The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1958 was thirteen thousand, four hundred and sixty-three, showing an increase of eleven hundred over the previous year. All animals were inspected by me, and diseased and unfit carcases and organs were rejected. During the year, four hundred and seventeen visits were made to the slaughterhouse for the purpose of meat inspection. There was a significant increase in the number of cattle slaughtered—from nine hundred and forty to fourteen hundred and fifty-four, including two hundred and fifty-three cows. The chief reason for this increase was due to work undertaken for a wholesaler from an outside area.

The amount of meat requiring inspection is considerably in excess of local requirements. The Ministry make a contribution towards the cost of the inspection of meat surplus to local requirements, and during the financial year 1957/1958 this grant was £101. The duties of meat inspection were carried out as usual with the assistance and co-operation of the slaughtermen.

An examination of the following tables shows that a comparatively small percentage of animals was found to be affected with disease. The one notable exception to this general statement was the amount of distomatosis, commonly called liver fluke, which was found, particularly during the last four months of the year, when forty per cent of all the bovine livers were condemned on account of this condition. During the whole year, in fact, three hundred and eighty bovine livers and two hundred and thirty-seven sheep livers had to be rejected on account of liver fluke. There is no doubt that one reason for the abnormally high degree of this parasitic

infection was the prolonged spells of wet weather which occurred during the past few years, as this would be favourable to the fresh water snail which is the intermediate host. This one infection has caused considerable financial loss to farmers and meat traders, and for that reason alone research into preventive measures is warranted.

Throughout the year I again represented the Denbighshire Urban Districts on the Milk Sub-Committee of the Agricultural Executive Committee. This Committee is the controlling Authority for the production of milk. The retailing of milk is subject to supervision by local authorities, and twenty-nine samples of milk were collected. These samples, made up of fourteen Pasteurised, four Sterilised, and eleven Tuberculin Tested, were submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All samples satisfied the prescribed statutory tests and, in addition, three of the samples of the Tuberculin Tested milk gave negative results when examined biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli. One case was reported where foreign matter was found inside a bottle of milk. It is a regrettable fact that there is much misuse of milk bottles, and this in turn renders more difficult their cleaning and sterilising before being filled.

Three cases of foreign matter in bread were also investigated. On being satisfied that all practicable steps had been taken and would continue to be taken to prevent this accidental introduction of foreign matter, it was decided not to take proceedings.

Forty-eight samples of ice cream were collected and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. The bacteriological grading of the samples was as follows :

Grade 1	...	34 samples
Grade 2	...	7 samples
Grade 3	...	7 samples
Grade 4	...	Nil

A constant check was kept on the purity of the water supplies, a total of forty-five samples being collected. Thirty-six samples were taken from the Council's own supply at Glyn Lws. Three only of these samples just failed to reach the desired very high standard of bacteriological purity expected in a main piped supply. Three samples were taken from the Rhyl U.D.C. supply and six from the Gwrych Castle supply, and these were found to be satisfactory.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Sheep and Calves Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ... ...	1201	253	111	10218	1680
Number Inspected ... ...	1201	253	111	10218	1680
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b>					
Whole carcases con- demned ... ... ...	Nil	3	3	29	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ... ...	361	88	Nil	242	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysti- cerci ... ... ...	30%	36%	3%	3%	0.4%
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>					
Whole carcase con- demned ... ... ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ... ...	7	25	Nil	Nil	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ...	0.6%	10%	—	—	3%
<b>Cysticercosis.</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ... ...	Nil	Nil	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion ... ... ...	Nil	Nil	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ... ...	Nil	Nil	—	—	—

**DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR****BEEF :**

## (a) 3 Cow Carcasses and Organs :

Non-Tubercular Disease ... ... ... ... ... 1090 lbs.

## (b) Part Carcass and Organs :

7 Oxen—Localised Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... 222 lbs.

25 Cows—Localised Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... 396 lbs.

361 Oxen—Other Diseases ... ... ... ... ... 4578 lbs.

88 Cows—Other Diseases ... ... ... ... ... 1056 lbs.

**PORK :**

## (a) Complete Carcasses :

3 Pig-Carcasses and Organs : Non-Tubercular Diseases ... ... ... ... ... 515 lbs.

## (b) Part Carcass and Organs :

56 parts—Localised Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... 764 lbs.

3 parts—Other Diseases ... ... ... ... ... 42 lbs.

**VEAL :**

3 Complete Calf Carcasses—Non-Tubercular Disease ... ... ... ... ... 76 lbs.

**MUTTON AND LAMB :**

29 Complete Sheep Carcasses ... ... ... ... ... 865 lbs.

242 Part Carcasses and Organs ... ... ... ... ... 500 lbs.  
(All non-tubercular conditions)**Total Weight Condemned** ... ... ... ... ... 4 tons, 10 cwts., 24 lbs.**OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED**

Canned Whole Egg	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Canned Fish	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	1399 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	1744 lbs.
Canned Milk	...	...	...	534 lbs.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	1155 lbs.
Canned Soup	...	...	...	722 lbs.
Puddings	...	...	...	46 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	13 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	515 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	10 lbs.

**Total Weight Condemned** ... ... ... ... ... 2 tons, 15 cwts., 10 lbs.

## REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The task of refuse collection and disposal increases year by year as more houses and bungalows are built and an ever-increasing use is made of the holiday camping sites.

Prior to 1946, refuse collection in the Abergele area was carried out by a private contractor. In April of that year the Council inaugurated their own service, six men being employed and two collection vehicles. In the early stages there was no adequate provision for disposing of the refuse in a satisfactory manner. Following my representations a seventh man was employed, and one of the men was then trained in the task of refuse disposal. During the last few years eight men have been engaged in this department, and during the holiday season a third refuse collection vehicle is brought into use. In December, 1946, a second-hand machine—a Bristol M.R. 20 Angle Dozer—was purchased from the Rhyl Council for use on the tip. This machine has been a good investment and has enabled a reasonably good standard of disposal to be achieved and maintained under difficult conditions. This machine is now becoming in such a condition that either major repairs or replacement with a new machine is necessary. The hand-operated paper baling press was becoming increasingly difficult to operate and an efficient electric press has now been acquired. The storage facilities for salvaged materials is proving to be inadequate.

With very few exceptions a weekly collection of refuse is made from all premises, and during the holiday season two collections per week are made from the camping sites. The task which has to be undertaken during the holiday season imposes a very heavy burden on the workmen and involves a considerable amount of "overtime" work. This appears to be inevitable and unavoidable on account of the disproportionately high increase in the population and the impracticability of securing satisfactory temporary labour.

The amount of development which has taken place in the area since the establishment of the Council's own service is an indication of the increase in the size of the task to be accomplished.

There are now two thousand, five hundred and seventy-eight separately rated dwellings in the area, this being an increase of approximately six hundred over the figure in 1946. The number of dwellings on the camping sites is probably four times as great as it was in 1946. The total assessment of the camping sites in 1948 was £1,800, now it is over £23,000. It would appear inevitable that if a satisfactory service is to be maintained, more men will need to be employed.

Except for two brief periods the site near Beach House, Llanddulas, has been used for refuse disposal since 1946. An area of low-lying land adjoining the Maesydre housing site was filled in as a preliminary stage in the development of a recreation field. At a later date a scheme was considered by which land on the Pentre Mawr estate was to be used as a site for controlled tipping, prior to use for recreational purposes. This site was prepared and was used for a brief period. After an interval of a few years the responsibility for refuse collection and disposal was again given to me when refuse disposal was again being carried out at Llanddulas.

The Beach House site has the merit of being remote from dwellings. The numerous adverse factors include the fact that the site cannot be enclosed. Because of this, unauthorised dumping of all kinds of refuse and discarded materials takes place. On numerous occasions fires have occurred and we are convinced by the nature of these fires that these are of external origin and are started either accidentally or deliberately.

Invariably the fires have commenced within about two hours after the Council's employees have finished working. On Saturday afternoon, the 29th November last, a fire occurred which was not discovered until the following Monday morning. By this time the fire had travelled back from the face of the tip and it resisted all efforts to extinguish it. Finally, after three and a half months, the affected portion was removed by using a "Caterpillar Traxcavator," each scoopful of material being soaked with two powerful jets of water.

The Council's appreciation of the services and advice of the Fire Authority was recorded. This assistance is always readily and promptly given in spite of the fact that tip fires are not "service calls."

The danger from this type of fire is always present under the existing circumstances and it is, of course, a constant cause of anxiety. Consideration is being given to the acquisition of a new site which would, of course, be subject to approval, with conditions, by the Planning Authority.

The sale of salvage during the financial year ended 31st March, 1959, produced a gross income of £968/18/10, made up as follows :

Type	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.		£	s	d
Paper and Fibreboard . . . . .	120	12	3	...	919	7	4
Metals . . . . . . . . . . . . .	2	18	1	...	9	15	9
Rags, etc. . . . . . . . . . . .	4	7	1	...	39	15	9
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>

This shows an increased weight of thirteen tons and an increase in value of £125. Such material has to be collected and if it was taken to the tip it would increase the problems of disposal. The costs of the labour involved in baling the paper and fibreboard would need to be deducted from the gross value to give the net income, but it is considered advantageous to salvage and sell such materials.

The uncongenial task of refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Council's workmen in a cheerful and industrious manner, and the mechanic, under the direction of the Surveyor, has always given prompt attention to the repair and maintenance needs of the vehicles.





